

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please rewrite claim 1 and add new claim 8 as follows.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A susceptor supporting construction comprising a susceptor for heating a member to be processed and a supporting member, in which an inner space is arranged, connected to one another, a chamber having an opening connected to the supporting member, the opening of the chamber being in communication with the inner space of the supporting member, and the inner space of the supporting member being sealed in an airtight manner with respect to an inner space of the chamber, said supporting member further comprising a first wall portion defining a tubular main portion, a second wall portion defining a diameter extending portion arranged at an end portion thereof, the entirety of said second wall portion being joined to ~~which the susceptor is faced~~, and one or more continuous round portions arranged between the main portion and the diameter extending portion, when viewed by an outer profile of a longitudinal section of the supporting member, wherein a portion of an outer surface of said second wall portion is substantially parallel to a portion of an outer surface of said first wall portion, the radial thickness of said first wall portion is less than the radial thickness of said second wall portion, and an inner surface of the supporting member has a substantially constant diameter along the entire length of the supporting member.

2. (original) The susceptor supporting construction according to claim 1, wherein a curvature radius of the round portion is not less than 3 mm and not more than 30 mm.

3. (original) The susceptor supporting construction according to claim 1, wherein a straight portion extending in a direction crossing to a center axis of the supporting member is arranged between the diameter extending portion and the round portion, when viewed by an outer profile of a longitudinal section of the supporting member.

4. (previously presented) The susceptor supporting construction according to claim 1, wherein another round portion is arranged between the diameter extending portion and a surface of the susceptor, when viewed by an outer profile of a longitudinal section of the supporting member.

5. (original) The susceptor supporting construction according to claim 4, wherein at least a part of the another round portion is formed to the susceptor.

6. (original) The susceptor supporting construction according to claim 1, wherein an outer side surface of the diameter extending portion is extended in a direction substantially parallel to a center axis of the supporting member, when viewed by an outer profile of a longitudinal section of the supporting member.

7. (original) The susceptor supporting construction according to claim 1, wherein a material of the susceptor or the supporting member is ceramics.

8. (new) The susceptor supporting construction according to claim 1, wherein said supporting member is an integral body including said first wall portion, said second wall portion and said one or more continuous round portions.